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Cairo Bulletin.

Mcs. Bulletin Building, Corner Twelfth Street and Washington Avenue

VOL. 7.

CAIRO, ILLINOIS, WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 1875.

NO. 181.

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The Bulletin.

HEZEKIAH HENLEY.

The Famous Colored Blacksmith of ing in the Role of Peace-Maker.

(From the Chicago Times.) MEMPHIS, TENN., July 14.—Hezekiah Henley—a plain name, not apt to inspire thoughts of oratory, battle fields, or human progress, yet, nevertheless, destined to be remembered in the South as one that has assisted in breaking down the barriers which so disastrously divided the two races.

the two races.

I attended the celebration of the Inde-I attended the celebration of the Independent Order of Pole-Bearers, at the fair grounds, on the 5th of this month, and witnessed the ceremony of reconciliation between the whites and blacks. Gens. Pillow and Forrest (two names that for years sounded barshiy upon black ears, as at Fort Pillow the soldiers under Forrest slaughtered the negroes who defended it), as the world now knows, were there, in company with the genial and talented Gallaway, editor of the Appeal. The words of these prominent Southern gentlemen have gone into the presidential mansion, the bondholders' palaces, and the cabins of the toiling blacks, as covenant of peace and friendship. During these ceremonies between former slaves, and white men of the purest southern line-

and white men of the purest southern line-age—Gens. Pillow and Forrest and M.C. Gallaway—I was thoroughly impressed with their importance and the effect they would have upon the people of the south, of all classes, and the fanatics of the north. Forrest, the great cavalry leader, was sternly in earnest: Pillow, a man distinguished in the annals of the nation, spoke in plain language to a sea of black, seri-ous faces, telling them truths that ap-plied to all men, advising sobriety, in-dustry, honesty, and frugality; while Gallaway, in personal appearance the counterpart of Henry Clay, gave his pres-ence and voice to the occasion.

All this was brought about by plain Hez-ekiah Henley, president of the Independ-ent Order of Pole-Bearers, a negro blacksmith, who works daily at his business. Shortly after the celebration I made in-Shortly after the celebration I made inquiries as to where Hezekiah Henley could be found, and after a walk out Madison street, and across the Memphis and Charleston railroad bridge, I saw a plain sign, in front of a dingy wooden structure, which read—"Hezekiah Henley, Blacksmith." Entering a spacious doorway I discovered the object of my search, a black man, well advanced in years, leaning upon an anvil, his swarthy face leaning upon an anvil, his swarthy face grim with smoke and dust. From him I learned that the Pole-

him I learned that the Pole-Bearers were an organization that ramified throughout the states of Tennessee and Mississippi; that its main objects were mutual benefits and protection to its members; and that it was not antagonistic to the white race. He did not deny that they were well-drilled in the manual of arms and evolutions, but said these were to make their parades imposing and attractive.

The former president, Tom Swan, while an honest citizen, was an avowed adherent of the radical party, and used the Pole-Bearers as a political machine, both in nominating conventions and in elections. He died, and in his stead came to the surface as leader and president, Hezekiah Henley, a colored man of broad and liberal views, and a true patriot.

Hezekiah Henley is a very common

Hezekiah Henley is a very common name, but to-day it is linked with such distinguished southern names as Galla-way, Forrest and Pillow, in the cause of progress, humanity, peace, tranquility,

and prosperity.

The following is substantially a tion of a brief interview I had with Heze-

You have moved boldy in the matter, Mr. Henley."

"I am an humble citizen of the south, sir. It is my birth-place and home. I have grieved to see the white and black man arrayed against each other when their interests are identical. The white man and black man have been acting like man and black man have been acting like children, and the political gambler has filled his purse at their expense. Planta-tions are lying idle, and the richest lands in the world are covered with weeds. Why is this? Because there has been bad blood between the black and white

"Do you think Forrest, Gallaway, and Pillow sincere in their desire for reconciliation?"

ciliation?"
"Most assuredly. They are southern gentlemen of the best class, citizens whom any man can approach, whether white or black; and are men of high moral and social standing, and have no fear of public opinion. Such men mold public opinion."
"These men were strong rebels, and

"And losing, turned to pursuits of in-dustry—Forrest, to building a railroad; Pillow, to the law; and Gallaway, to

journalism. These men are not politi-"How did you conceive the idea of

bringing the antagonistic elements to-gether?" "Through my position as president of the Independent Order of Pole-Bear-

"It gave you power?" "No, not exactly power, but promi-nence and a large influence among the people of my color. My duty was plain, and with the support of thinking col-ored men, and such white gentlemen as M. C. Gallaway, and Gens. Pillow and Forrest, I made the move which has buried all differences and put into hands

of my people these implements" (pointing to plows, harrows, and hoes that lay around his anvils and forges).

"Do you think the condition of the colored man bettered by having gained his Hezekiah Henley smiled at this question, and I saw his answer without

a reply.

"Human bondage kept the black man fat, but ignorant freedom brought suffering; but it also brought to the nation knowledge and wisdom, and an increase of power that cannot hurriedly be estimated."

"You have made a name for yourself." "I love my country and my section of this great government, and know that harmony and good will must prevail be-tween the people of my color and the whites, else our children (and they are numerous) will remain uneducated, our young men fail to become skilled me-chanics or masters of useful professions, chanics or masters of useful professions, and finally sink into a dangerous lethargy, that will take them to the doors of vagabondage, idleness, and crime. I want to see schools filled with our children, competing with the children of the whites in the race for knowledge; competing with the whites in mechanism and in all the professions."

87 00 each.

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Address HARPER& BROTHERS, N. Y. all the professions."
This ended our Interview, and Heft Hez-

had met a man of powerful will, broad understanding, and a patriot.

Hezekiah Henley did not stop with the Pole-Bearers' celebration, and as he wielded his black-mith's hammer his fertile mind conceived the idea of a grand peace barbeene. The following from the columns of the Appeal is a portion of a letter to that influential journal over his signature as president of the Independent Pole-Bearers.

"There are so many of my colored friends who regret not being with us in our happy time on the 5th inst., that I take the liberty to call the attention of the colored people and their prominent

the colored people and their prominent men to such suggestions as will bring all our people together at a grand peace barbecue some time in the next month. barbecue some time in the next month. We want the old and young to be there, the rich and the poor, the ungodly and the righteous, that all may enjoy a good time in testive rejoicing, such as we enjoyed at the fair grounds. We want this good, harmonious feeling to glow among all classes and conditions in life throughout our whole country. We want our race particularly to live nearer to their old white people, and hearken to their wisdom and advice, for what interests them is interesting to our race. Our future mutual good is too closely interwoture mutual good is too closely interwo-ven to be separated without reciprocal injury. Let us have more of this good feeling; let it swell with pride and joy every heart that can feel, whether it be

white or black, until it reaches the utter-most bounds of our common country." In connection with the above is the following fragment of an able editorial by Mr. M. C. Gallaway, which breathes the spirit of the true Southern gentleman

spirit of the true Southern gentleman and patriot:
"We make no apology for publishing the letter of Hezekiah Henley, president of the Pole-Bearers, in another column. He seems thoroughly imbued with the idea of obliterating all prejudices between the two races, and thereby inaugurate the two races, and thereby inaugurate the reciprocal feeling of triendship, interest, and dependence so essential to the prosperity of both races. The individual editor of the Appeal who has sympathized with and encouraged the recent movement to allay the prejudices between the whites and blacks, has never been a gradulate for officer of the property and the property of the prope candidate for office, and never will be one for any position within the gift of the people. He therefore has no selfish motives to subserve in the course he has pursued. Our only object has been to promote the interest of both white and black. We see no other way of solving the problem as to the intere of the races, save that of peace and tranquility."

save that of peace and tranquility."

When the centennial comes telling that
a century has frosted the locks of the rea century has frosted the nocks of the re-public, we may see the name of the hum-ble blacksmith of Marshal avenue, Hezekiah Henley, emblazoned on silken banners as the true peacemaker in the south. Tom Swan dead and Hezekiah Henley living has changed the political aspect of affairs in Tennessee, and per-haps in the whole south. That Barbour Lewis and the Estons will attenue, with Dewis and the Eatons will attempt, with Hezekiah Henley, to overthrow the daring Hezekiah Henley, we have no doubt, but trust to the influence and master will of the now famous blacksmith. OCELOT.

A Joke That Kicked Back.

They are telling a joke, writes "Eit Perkins," on Charley Backus to-day. Charley tells it on himself, too. It seems Charley drove up through stamford, Conn., yesterday, with Lein Read, of poor dead Dan Bryant's minstrels, for a companion. As the train got ready to leave, Charley says.

"Lem, let me show you a good joke I'll get a splendid joke on that old duffer sitting in the station. Now you watch!" Then, as the train began to move out slowly, Charley rushed into the station, shook his fists in the stranger's face, and called him a miserable, mean, thieving

scoundrel. "O, you rascal!" said Charley, "I've

got you at last, you bloody old scape-grace, and now I'll lick you to an inch of your life. I—''

"Charley! Charley!" shouted Lem, "the train is off—run!" and Charley left his astonished victim and rushed back

his astonished victim and rushed back into the car.

"Where! where!! is the man who wanted to lick me all over New England?" shouted the old farmer as he ran to the door of the station with his spectacles in one hand and a crumpled Tribinos in the other. "Where is he—show him to me!"

him to me:

"Here is he," said Charley from the
end platform of the last car as it moved
out, holding his thumb and finger to his

"Wall, here I am," said the old farmer

"Wall, here I am," said the old farmer shaking his list at Charley, "and I'll be goll blasted, ef I don't lick h-ll—"
Ding!—dong!—ding!—dong! interrupted the locomotive bell, and—
Alas for Charley! the train backed back. The outraged man in the station rubbed his eyes, went out on the platform, saw Charley through the window, and went for him. Three times he chased the poor, misguided minstrel around the tram. He linally caught him, and the poor man only escaped by leaving an \$8 hat and the lapels of a \$60 coat in the enraged farmer's hands.

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